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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Schroeder, *et al.* Docket No.: 00P9111US  
Serial No: 09/745,676 Art Unit: 2851  
Date Filed: December 21, 2000  
Title: Method and Apparatus for Aerial Image Improvement in Projection Lithography  
Using a Phase Shifting Aperture

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Respectfully submitted,

Kristin R. Hayes  
Legal Assistant

**Confirmation Respectfully Requested**

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